

March
2002

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life**

Held on March 1, 2002

AD 121 10:00am Loyola Campus

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. P. Blais, Mr. R. Côté, Ms A. Kerby, Mr. A. Gagnon, Dr. S.M. Graub, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. M. Nimchuk, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms P. Greco, Ms N. Ngoya, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms M. Drew, Mr. H. Zarins, Ms C. Costello, Mr. A. Igdebeli, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe

ABSENT: Mr. J. Brisebois, Ms B. Stewart, Ms G. Pagé, Mr. B. Hamideh, Mr. R. Al-Hadad, Mr. R. Luppicini, Ms O. Maibroda

GUESTS: Mr. M. Golden, Ms S. Magor, Mr. P. Murphy, Ms D. Fasciano

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert asked that point #5.1 on the agenda (Environmental Health and Safety) be addressed after point #3 on the agenda. Council had no objection.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was carried unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that effective immediately Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Vice-Rector, Services, was Interim Director of Recreation & Athletics. Mr. Di Grappa is replacing Mr. Harry Zarins who has left the University.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF November 30,
2001**

Dr. Boisvert pointed out that on Page 5, point #9. the next meeting should read March 1, 2002 not April 5, 2002. It was also noted that on page 4, point #6 the last name of Ms Oksana Maibroda was omitted.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was carried unanimously

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Environmental Health & Safety

Ms S. Magor, Director of Environmental Health & Safety, introduced Mr. P. Murphy, student services representative on the Health and Safety Committee as well as Ms D. Fasciano, Training Coordinator. Brochures describing the department and its function were distributed. Ms Magor gave a brief overview of the department. She explained that the mandate of the department is to promote, support and evaluate the development and maintenance of a safe and healthy work environment which ultimately enhances the teaching, research and service mission of the University. The functions of the department range from consultation and technical assistance to information on regulatory compliance and interventions. She stressed the importance of conformity with all federal, provincial and municipal laws. Ms Magor also reiterated that this policy is shared by the whole community and is everyone's responsibility.

There was discussion concerning the new buildings and health & safety factors. Ms Boujaklian said a task force which studied the market and established standards for furniture that are ergonomically correct had been established. Consequently any purchase of furniture that is processed through Facilities Planning & Development and Purchasing Services will be ergonomically correct. She noted that Ms Magor and Ms Dion, a university architect are both members of the task force. However, there was still concern expressed that Environmental Health and Safety should be **directly** involved in the plans for the new buildings to ensure that all safety and health concerns with respect to classroom, equipment, furniture, etc are investigated and implemented.

Ms Magor also took the opportunity to stress the importance of having input from graduate and undergraduate students on their various committees. She explained the difficulty they continually encounter securing **undergraduate** student representation. Issues concerning security, safety or health often arise with respect to student exhibits, the food policy and parties. She stressed the importance of student input on committees where student(s) or student organizations are ultimately directly affected by decisions or policy discussed at that level. Mr. Blais said that any information the department would like to publicize could be easily included in the CSU monthly newsletter. Mr. Golden suggested that a representative from the department be included in any future discussions with regard to the revision of the poster policy.

Ms Magor thanked Council for the opportunity to discuss the department and mutual concerns with the representatives from all segments of the university community.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Poster Policy

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the revised draft poster policy which had previously been distributed to Council. He gave a brief overview of the history of the poster policy. He noted this draft policy is a result of discussions between the student affairs coordinator, Mr. M. Golden and the student associations. Dr. Boisvert reiterated that it is his fervent hope that this process will result in a more manageable and equitable poster policy!

Mr. Golden said although this policy is still in a draft form he felt encouraged by the response by student groups he had met with to date.

The following concerns were expressed by Council:

- The draft policy allowed for the Dean of Students Office, CSU and the GSA each to authorize up to 25 posters. Mr. Blais said it was not realistic to expect the **umbrella** associations to go to each other for poster authorization.
- Draft Policy point #11, number ii. Mr. Blais pointed out that election posters are often creative and their size (within reason) has never been restricted. As well, election posters cannot have logos of students associations on them.
- Draft Policy point #11, number iv, v, vi. Mr. Blais felt that there should be a process whereby the student association receives a warning before a charge is levied.
- Dr. Shaver felt it was important that there should be equity between the various student associations and the umbrella associations with respect to the number of posters allowed to be vetted.
- Dr. Jans asked that the policy clarify "who" is responsible for the taking down of unauthorized, over-due posters, etc.

Mr. Golden agreed to take these concerns under consideration.

Ms Magor asked that Mr. Norman Lanthier, Safety Officer, be included in any further deliberations. Ms Boujaklian asked that she also be included in the discussions. Mr Golden indicated he will meet with GSA, ECA, Physical Plant and Environment Health & Safety to ensure all concerns are considered.

Dr. Boisvert confirmed that a final draft would be presented at the April 5th CCSL meeting for Council's formal approval.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

With respect to the "clock situation" at Concordia, Mr. Blais informed Council that Mr. Di Grappa said that at this time it would be cheaper to buy every Concordia student a watch rather than invest in a new system. Mr. Blais encouraged the community to take the Vice-Rector up on his offer!!

With respect to the tuition waivers for students on University Governing Bodies, Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the letter he sent to Dr. Lowy. The letter requesting support from the University included the approved CCSL motion recommending the implementation of tuition waivers for 2002-2003. Mr. Blais expressed concern that if we do not keep pushing this issue, it would not be in place for the fall semester let alone the summer semester. Dr. Boisvert agreed to "push the envelope" on behalf of Council.

Mr. Nimchuk asked for clarification on the policy with respect to after-hour passes. He felt it was especially important to deal with this issue now as the examination period approaching. He said undergraduate students continually run into problems accessing computer labs after hours. These students need the time in the labs and often the only time available to them is after hours. Dr. Boisvert agreed that his office would investigate the situation both with the relevant academic Faculties/departments and the department of Security.

Mr. Blais agreed with the concerns expressed by Mr. Nimchuk. He asked why it was relatively easy for graduate students to obtain passes in comparison to undergraduate students. He said also there were continual problems with Security with respect to the CSU after-hours list. Dr. Boisvert said this issue would be followed-up with the Director of Security.

Mr. Curran confirmed that the Library would be open 24 hours from Wednesday, April 17th to May 1st inclusive.

Mr. Côté said that the part-time students would now be eligible for government loans commencing fall 2002. Government bursaries, however, will not be available for part-time students. He also noted that independent students would not be eligible. Details would be available in May 2002.

Mr. Blais asked if the university has considered allocating additional funds to the Financial Aid Office to ensure there is adequate staff to service the increased volume due to the creation of the part-time loan program. Mr. Côté said an assessment of the situation is being carried out at this time. As the Financial Aid Office is currently open 9am-5pm, he indicated that the possibility of extending the hours of operation for the department is being investigated.

Mr. Blais asked if refund statistics could be made available with respect to the Capital Campaign Fee and the Administrative Fee. Mr. Côté agreed to have those figures available for the April CCSL meeting.

Dr. Shaver took the opportunity to thank whoever was responsible for the study tables and chairs that keep popping up in the atrium. Mr. Curran said this was a joint initiative between the Library and Facilities Management.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

In light of the departure of the Director of Recreation & Athletics, Mr. Côté said the Board will be collaborating with the Vice-Rector's Office and relevant departments on the future direction of Athletics. The Board will also be involved in the selection of a new Director.

8. NEW BUSINESS

2. Concordia Council on Student Life Awards Motion

Dr. Boisvert noted that the annual Awards Night would be Friday, April 5th at 5:30pm in the Faculty Dining Room at the SGW Campus and encouraged all members to attend. He explained that the call for nominations would be advertised during the month of March in the student newspapers as well as in the Thursday Report.

He drew Council's attention to the distributed motion to establish a CCSL Awards Committee. He asked if Council was in agreement. As there was no objection, he asked for volunteers:

Dr. Donald Boisvert, Chair

Mr. Andre Gagnon, Staff

Dr. Fran Shaver, Faculty

Ms Oksana Maibroda, Graduate student

Mr. Michael Nimchuk, Undergraduate student

1 undergraduate student vacancy

Ms Hackett, CCSL secretary, will contact the absent undergraduate students to secure a volunteer to fill the vacancy.

The Selection Meeting will be Friday, March 22 at 9:30am in the SGW Dean of Students Office (H653).

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 5, 2002 SGW Campus H 769

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Kerby and seconded by Mr. Blais.